



Notes FROM UnderGrad

FREEDOM
SUPPORT ACT
Undergraduate
Program

First Impressions of Starkville, USA

by SVETLANA BUDNYAK

The first day my feet touched American soil was July 27, 2001. I had flown 14 hours across the Atlantic Ocean to experience life and to study at an American university. Like the other FSA Undergraduate students, we could not choose our universities. Mississippi State University was chosen for us.

After two weeks of orientation at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, after visiting New York, after being convinced by movies I had seen that the U.S. is a country of skyscrapers, huge cities, and luxurious cars, I was flying to Starkville in the smallest airplane I had ever seen in my life! The airplane, a regional jet, had propellers, produced an unbearable noise, and had the seating capacity of a bus. When I was flying, I did not pay much attention to these facts because I did not believe we would arrive to some place different from New York or Philadelphia. When we were landing, the reality hit home. I could not see any place large enough to be an airport. I desperately decided the plane was out of fuel, and we were going to land in a field. I closed my eyes and prepared myself for the worst.

To my great surprise, we successfully landed at a very small and quiet airport. I have never seen such a small but cozy airport. Our international student adviser met us and drove us to the Mississippi State University campus in a small van. I understood that everything I would experience in Starkville would be small and calm. The population of Starkville, the closest town to MSU, was only 40,000 people, including students. The theft of a bicycle was considered an extraordinary event.

The day of my arrival was a rainy one. Everything seemed so gloomy and sad! I did not notice the nice houses and untarnished nature around me. I was completely sure I had been placed in a God-forsaken uncivilized place. Nothing, it seemed, could change my mind.

After several weeks, I met many wonderful people from Starkville, West Point and Columbus. They all loved their small towns because they could avoid the noise and traffic of the large cities. The weather was not so bad any more, and I started to like it very much. I have come to understand that we cannot completely rely on our first impressions without giving ourselves a chance to see things from different angles.

Svetlana Budnyak (2001-2002) studied at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi, and is from Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine.

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Current Starkville FSAU student, Olexandr Kupyryna, enjoys festivities at his Mississippi State University campus.

From the Field

Dear FSA Undergraduates:

Hi. My name is Van Ram, and I am the ACAO for Exchanges II. What does that mean? It means that I am the Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer or ACAO at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. There are several American cultural affairs officers here because Russia is a very big and important country, and we do more exchanges than anywhere else in the world! We divide our responsibilities, and I work on youth exchanges. I manage programs such as yours for undergraduates as well as programs for high school students such as FLEX.

We Cultural Affairs Officers are Foreign Service Officers or diplomats who work for the U.S. Department of State, fondly known in Russian simply as *GosDep*. We would not be able to do our work without our Russian colleagues, and so my special colleague is Masha Lvova. Masha understands much more about your program than I do, since she has worked on it almost since it started, about eight years ago with the Thousand/Thousand program sponsored by Senator Bradley from New Jersey.

We do speak Russian too. But without Masha, I would be lost because I only arrived in Moscow in November 2001. What did I do before? Well, the first thing to know is that I am hired to be a generalist not a specialist. I have done a lot of different things. In my case, I used to work at our Consulate General in the *Severnaya Stolitsa*, or St. Petersburg, where I helped to run the Consulate as a Vice-Consul.

Before that I lived in South Korea. I was a Visa Officer there, which means that I was the one you went to see at the window at the American Embassy, if you wanted a visa to visit the USA. Before Korea, my first overseas assignment was in the Middle East in Jordan, where I was the Press Officer for the Embassy. This was during the height of the Middle East peace process, so it was very exciting and I met former President Clinton!

I hope that I will be able to meet many of you soon. This is my first letter, but not my last. I hope if you are coming through Moscow, you call us at the Embassy to say hello or write me an email anytime to RAMVS2@STATE.GOV.

Good luck!

Van Ram
Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer
U.S. Embassy Moscow

About THE Newsletter

Notes from UnderGrad is a forum for the FREEDOM Support Act Undergraduate community to express views and share the FSAU experience. Published three times a year, the newsletter is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and produced by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS in conjunction with the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX).

About the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State conducts educational and training exchange programs with Eurasia with the aim of fostering mutual understanding between the United States and the countries of Eurasia. Authorized through the Fulbright-Hays Act and the FREEDOM Support Act, the FSA Undergraduate Program is designed to foster democratization and economic development in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

How to Participate

Open Forum | Have something to share with the FSAU community? Submit personal essays on your experience with the program, thoughts on international politics or current affairs, or statements about your academic or professional challenges. Essays should be 300 words or less.

Point of View | We know you have an opinion. Tell us what it is! Stay tuned for the *Point of View Question* by email and through the new list-serve NotesfromUnderGrad@yahoo.com. Essays should be 300 words or less.

Upward Mobility | What have you done for yourself lately? Tell us about your promotions, participation in conferences, professional and academic achievements. Submissions should be 100 words or less.

In the Community | What have you done for your community? Let us know about your community service either in the U.S. or at home. Submissions should be 200 words or less.

Photo Gallery | A picture is worth a thousand words. Tell us your FSAU story in either electronic or hard copy photographs. We'd like to see you at alumni events, conferences and workshops, professional and community service activities. Include descriptions of the event and names of all individuals in the photo. Please send hard copy photographs with return address information so they can be returned to you.

Notes from UnderGrad Editorial Committee and Contact Information

Masha Cherkashina, American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, Moscow (ugradalum@actr.ru)

Lucy Jilka, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. (ljilka@pd.state.gov)

Alissa Millman, ACTR/ACCELS, Washington, D.C. (millman@americancouncils.org)

Aimee Santimore, International Research & Exchanges Board, Washington, D.C. (asantimore@irex.org)

Dallas Shelby, Design, ACTR/ACCELS, Washington, D.C. (shelby@americancouncils.org)

Ryan Tvedt, ACTR/ACCELS, Washington, D.C. (tvedt@americancouncils.org)

Did we forget something? Submit ideas for new sections, improvements and other feedback about *Notes from UnderGrad*. The Editorial Committee will take all ideas into consideration.

Submission Guidelines

In the United States, please submit materials to ljilka@pd.state.gov or asantimore@irex.org.

In Russia and Eurasia, please submit materials to ugradalum@actr.ru or millman@americancouncils.org. Submissions may be edited for style and language. Not all essays submitted will be printed. All submissions must include name, year of participation in program, university attended and contact information including email address.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SPRING ISSUE: FEBRUARY 15, 2003.

Time Flies

by ANYA SNITSAR

Since I arrived to the United States, I've been asking myself, "Is it really happening to me? Am I really here in the U.S.?" I walk in the streets; I see all the signs, commercials in English. People I meet speak only English. Yet, it seems so unreal and unbelievable. If somebody told me a year ago I would be here now, I wouldn't have believed it. But I'm in Rock Hill, South Carolina, studying at Winthrop University.

If you ask me how is it living in this country, I'll answer it's very different. After two and a half months of being in the U.S., I've already experienced so much. I had my first cookout, felt my guts riding the roller coaster, hit my first ball in my first softball match, won my first game in bowling and tried food I've never seen before. Yes, in this country almost everything I do is for the first time.

I realize that even if you study English for many years, there are some things you should have been taught. It would prevent me from looking down at the ground when greeted with "What's up?" I would have been less confused after hearing the words "Would you like a shot?" (What does this shot have to do with my coffee?) All these new phrases greet me in America. I still remember how I tried to deal with the washing machine, the water faucet, how I tried to get some milk and ice cream in the cafeteria.

But there is also another side of living in the U.S. Shortly after my arrival, I found myself wanting to go back home, to my world where everything is so simple and clear. I thought nobody cared about me except my parents and friends on the other side of the ocean. I was homesick. I should say it's okay if you remember your home, the ones you love, but you should realize one very important thing—to overcome being homesick. Every day in the United States is unique, so try to live every day, every single minute. Time doesn't pass here—it flies, and in six months you'll be home again. But the time you spent in America, the memories of your first football match or cookout, will stay with you until the end of your life.

Anya Snitsar studies at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and is from Kyiv, Ukraine.

The Biggest Question

by TATYANA SIVAYEVA

This was my last day of a week-long assignment in Perm. All through the week I had up to four meetings with local authorities and businesses per day and by then was more than ready to go home. On my last day I needed to see a couple of local community organizations and was now struggling forward through the snow toward the place of my last meeting. In three hours my plane was supposed to take me back to the comfort of my regular life. Thank god!

A narrow road covered with snow leads to a distant backyard. In front of my nose there is a heavy door with a sign "House of Hope." A woman in white overalls opens the door and I enter. There is a long corridor and the smell of cafeteria food. "Do you want to join us for lunch?" asks the woman. I answer her that I am not hungry. "Kristina will be here in a minute. You can wait for her in the office," she responds. The office is about four square meters large: a computer, small table, and a couple of chairs.

And here they come...the kids. All of them are very polite, really friendly, open...and small. The oldest of them is hardly over 13. The youngest one must be no older than eight. They show me around the place: kitchen, bathroom, laundry, study hall, boys' bedroom and girls' bedroom. "This girl in bed is sick, but she is getting better." Very nice and kind kids. I start to feel ashamed for my silly "pickiness" and not joining them for lunch. Later Kristina told me that their main goal here is to get these kids off glue.

The heavy iron door slams. It's Kristina. The kids rush to the entrance with the first sound of her voice. She is small, skinny and very pretty, no older than 24 or 25. She is American. She has been here for more than four years now and speaks Russian almost better than I. She, her husband and their Russian friend are now operating two shelters for street children of the city: one is for day-care and one for permanent stay. My BIGGEST QUESTION is why would someone ever come from America to the Urals and not for a day or a month but for years? Church mission? No, nothing like that. "It can be hard here, but I love the kids," is Kristina's answer to my question.

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Denys Pervov

Mykolayiv, Ukraine

Wabash Valley College,
Mt. Carmel, Illinois



Denys uses his talents as a soccer player to give back to the Mt. Carmel community by volunteering to referee and coach children's soccer for the local YMCA every Saturday.

"I am passionately devoted to football, or soccer, as it is called in America. I've been involved in this kind of activity for about ten years, and thanks to my perseverance, straightforwardness and stubbornness, I've achieved much success."

Anna Shcherbakova

Novosibirsk, Russia

University of St. Thomas,
St. Paul, Minnesota

Anna has been participating in the Volunteer In Action program at the Jane Addams School for Democracy in St. Paul. The purpose of this organization is to help immigrants integrate in their new home in the United States. Anna has been reading and teaching English to Hmong children. Anna says that the experience and interaction with kids has been a lot of fun. She also plans on working with Hmong immigrants preparing for their citizenship exam, "because it seems more serious and interesting and they have very deep discussion sessions" on what it means to be an American citizen.

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In the Community

Kateryna Dyatlova

Molochausk, Ukraine

Minnesota State University,
Mankato, Minnesota

Kateryna volunteers for the Theresa House Project, helping homeless children with their homework. She also teaches English to foreigners. Kateryna says she's learned that "it's great to have your own home and family!"

Veronica Cacean

Causeni, Moldova

Clemson University,
Clemson, South Carolina



Veronica volunteers on weekends doing construction for Habitat for Humanity. Victoria also created a September 11 memorial tile online. Her project may be viewed at: <http://tiles.remember.yahoo.com/view/3d33928dce?r=3d33928dce>.

Eduard Lapteanu

Edinets, Moldova

Nadejda Nikulina

Ferghana, Uzbekistan

Nataliya Koposovych

Kyiv, Ukraine

Marianne Vanetsyan

Yerevan, Armenia

At the end of September, Eduard, Nadejda, Nataliya and Marianne, all studying at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, traveled more than one hour in the rain on foot to hear President Bush speak.

"We were so excited that we took the chance to see President Bush. I think not everyone from our program will have such a great opportunity, so we were

Point of View

When asked, "What is the greatest threat to international security today?" FSA Undergraduates responded with the following essays. The views and opinions expressed on this page are strictly those of the authors.

Illiteracy and Lack of Education

by OLGA KIRIMOVA

This is becoming a very crucial topic worldwide. Everyone these days is talking about the great importance of international security and the prevention of any kind of terrorism. After the attack on the United States the question of international security suddenly became quite clear and vital. People in the United States and in the whole world became vulnerable, exposed to the risk of being attacked and at the same time united in the common goal of fighting terrorism. Unfortunately, we still yearn for unity using mostly words, but not actions.

I believe the major problem lies in the mentality of the people who willingly commit such crimes, as well as in the pressure of political and religious views that incite a certain group of people to commit these crimes. The main factor is the religious impact. Of course I don't mean Islam solely; I am implying that this religious pressure is mostly caused by Islamic sects and reactionary groups.

The most important thing for humanity is the well-being and safety of peaceful populations, but how can we achieve this? One possible solution is to destroy the source of terrorism by limiting the flow of money which will demolish the core of terrorism. But what is the core? It is certainly the environment—those who generate the ideas, push others around, inspire and teach them. To improve or change the situation at once will be impossible considering that these are people who have strong traditions and are from a religious-oriented society. For instance, in Iraq, we can see that the people are unanimous in their votes for Saddam Hussein; they admire him and want to see him rule the country for the next six to eight years or more. What does this mean? For me, the major factors leading to such behavior are illiteracy and lack of educational opportunities for many people in the East, poverty, and lack of democracy. Now, returning to the issue of international security, I think that the faster we start acting and improving the situa-

tion, the fewer people will suffer, and the more secure our world will be.

Olga Kirimova (2000-2001) studied at New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire, and is from Tbilisi, Georgia.

Politics at Work

by SHOTA ZHVANIA

To start with, international security has artificially been turned into a global concern. As strange as it may sound, what is understood as the "security threat" now happens to cover almost everything: terrorism, war, disarmament, foreign relations, economics, social and political issues, even ecology. The truth is that these perils have the same root—dominating ideology.

Political creed often negates what people actually are interested in. Their primary concern is with immediate bread-and-butter issues, and then in the other things that living implies such as health, simple comforts, the education of children and getting along with neighbors. Leaders realize this "quiet miracle of a normal life" (as President Clinton once so eloquently stated) can be a powerful argument in pursuing their ambitious goals. Human existence has been wisely employed to validate political objectives which, on the contrary, have rarely been adjusted to life itself.

International security is nothing but a concept exploited by political ideologists. There does not seem to be enough area in the world to satiate their desire to exercise their power or, at least, their influence. To be sure, their goal is always the security and welfare of the people over whom they seek to extend their influence. Thus, the threat comes directly from a biased manipulation of the people, from an antagonistic dictatorship building society or from a historically democratic country. Still, this is my opinion—I might be wrong.

Shota Zhvania (2000-2001) studied at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas, and is from Tbilisi, Georgia.

Poor Access to Information

by TIMUR ZYAPPAROV

There is no doubt that nine out of ten people when asked would answer the question being discussed alike: "global terrorism." This is true, especially given the disastrous and heart-breaking events of the falls of 1998 and 2002 in Moscow and 2001 in New York and Washington, D.C. Yet, the answer is too obvious to be true.

In my humble opinion, global terrorism is only a middle ring in the chain of social and political phenomena. The problem is rooted in both the lack of information and the lack of morality in our world. Human society has always lacked these two vital components—from ancient times until (even more so) our current day and age. Their importance can best be seen when they are missing.

While in the most well developed areas of the world the value of information as a tool or even as a commodity is always growing, in other places people are deprived of their innate right to obtain a minimum standard of education. Instead, what they know is mostly based on rumors and local opinion, which they have to share for lack of other data. Needless to say, people in these places are not only unable to think critically, but are guided by immoral leaders who may have more information, but lack ethics.

The problem is both simple and hard to solve, but has always existed among human beings. The only possible solution is to promote free access to information and foster comprehensive education everywhere in the world for every person. Thus, the mission of teachers and educators becomes much like that of peacemakers. However, comprehensive education is yet another threat; this is a drastic challenge to global diversity. But it is so much better than bombing rogue states instead.

*Timur Zyapparov (2000-2001)
studied at North Park University
in Chicago, Illinois, and is from
Kazan, Russia.*

Giving in to Terrorists

by ELENA CHERNIGINA

After the recent tragedies, I could say only one word—terrorism—and everybody would agree.

Everybody knows what this is and everybody has his own point of view about this problem. Thank God, now we are ready to combine our efforts against it. Unfortunately, we know the price of this.

Is it the greatest threat? I think not. Now we know what this is, and hopefully together we are able to find the way out of this problem. But if we let ourselves give in to the terrorists' provocation there will be no international security at all. This is the greatest threat. Only, if we give the opportunity to terrorists to manage us and control us, and if we show how scared we are—we will lose everything. Our generation wants to build our future without fear of terrorism and if we need to fight for our future, we are ready.



*Elena Chernigina
(2001-2002)
studied at the
University of
Missouri at
Columbia in
Columbia,
Missouri, and
is from
Voronezh,
Russia.*

Poverty and Deprivation

by SAIYORA ISMAILOVA

First, we have to define what international security is. From my point of view, it is the lack of threat to stability, to standards of living and to national sovereignty. I am not a political scientist yet, so there is room for debate. According to the dictionary, the word "security" is directly related to the word "safety." One should have a strong feeling of protection when his safety is guaranteed. The international system is an anarchic one: there are governmental institutions within each state, but there is no global government that can ensure international security.

Almost everyone agrees that there are many threats to international security though. I can name a few threats, but the best-known threats are: terrorism, extremism, ecological catastrophes, maybe even globalization, dictatorships and economic problems. Everyday we hear about supermarkets being blown up, kamikazes

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just lucky. Though the President's speech did not take much time (we would like it to be longer) because of the tough schedule of the President and the bad weather, we still enjoyed listening to the key points of American policy and believe that the President will keep on making the right decisions concerning the Iraq problem. And I am very happy that, in spite of the stormy weather, we managed to walk six miles to see and listen to President Bush." - Nataliya Koposovych, Ukraine

Kyialbek Toksonbaev

Osh, Kyrgyzstan

Michigan State University,
East Lansing, Michigan

Kyialbek gave a presentation at Michigan State University about Kyrgyzstan to an audience of 200 people. "I participated in the international students fashion show [with] my Kyrgyz national clothes. I performed a dance and described the clothes. I displayed a flag, some images and other souvenirs I brought along. The organizers decided to play my CD with images and music from Kyrgyzstan during the whole event. I talked about the history, culture and politics of present-day Kyrgyzstan and afterwards had a short question and answer session. Very few heard about the country. As the Kyrgyz president had a meeting with Bush that day, I covered a little about Kyrgyz politics. People were coming up to me after the presentation and we kept on discussing politics."

Oksana Pastushkova

Dniprodzershynsk, Ukraine

Weber State University,
Ogden, Utah

Oksana recently made a presentation on Ukraine to a class of local fourth graders. "It was awesome! The kids were very nice, and they were very interested in what I was telling them. First, I showed on the

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In the Community

Upward Mobility

map where Ukraine is and told them what countries are close to Ukraine. I brought many pictures with me. The kids really liked that. I also brought some national pieces of art. Then I told them how people live in Ukraine, how schools are different, what kind of music people listen to, etc. After that they asked me questions. They had lots of questions! I was pleasantly surprised when each of them gave me a card. When I read the cards my heart was really touched. They all thanked me for the interesting stories about my country. One girl wrote that it was something she'd never heard of before. So I felt like I did something good for these children. It was a great time and I really enjoyed that."

Behzod Abdukarimov
Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Fairfield University
Fairfield, Connecticut

Behzod Abdukarimov (2001-2002) is pictured with an alumnus of the FSA FLEX Program delivering boxes of clothing and school supplies to Orphanage #30 in Tashkent. The clothes were donated by students at Clinton Central High School in Michigantown, Indiana, who had raised \$1,500 in order to make this donation. These contributions by young people in the U.S. and Uzbekistan were noted by the U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan and members of the local media, and the children were overjoyed with their gifts from America.

Class of 1994-1995

Azalia Dairbekova is the director of the Business Association Department for the PRAGMA Corporation, a USAID contractor agency that focuses on small and medium enterprise development in Central Asia. In her position, Azalia works on the institutional development of professional associations in Kyrgyzstan and carries out training programs and other consultant services. Azalia studied at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, and is from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Class of 1995-1996

Babur Tolbaev works with Mercy Co, an American Credit Organization that provides micro credit services to small and medium businesses and provides support to the NGO sector. Babur carries out training sessions in micro credit issues and is an active consultant to a host of clients. He is currently on assignment in the Fergana Valley of Uzbekistan, working with a group of women's NGOs. Babur studied at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi, and is from Osh, Kyrgyzstan.

Class of 1997-1998

Ovezmurad Agayev took a leave from his employment on tax consulting projects at Arthur Anderson to accept a scholarship to study at the Law School of Duke University in Hong Kong from July - August, 2002. At Arthur Anderson, Ovezmurad worked in the energy, banking, oil & gas, and manufacturing industries for both local and foreign companies and was sent to Holland in August 2000 for training in business audits. Ovezmurad studied at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minnesota, and is from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Stella Bilalova is an instructor of Economics for MBA students at the American University of Kyrgyzstan (AUK) and has her own business dealing with agricultural exports. Before joining AUK, Stella worked at the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan and on a monitoring and evaluation project sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Stella studied at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and is from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Seymur Khalilov was promoted to executive director of the U.S.-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce, located in Washington, D.C. Seymur studied at the University of Missouri at St. Louis and is from Baku, Azerbaijan.

Dinara Matkarimova received a small grant from the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, to further cooperation between alumni and local community members. Dinara works as an interpreter and office manager on the USAID-sponsored Community Action Investment Project at Mercy Corps International. Dinara studied at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama, and is from Chardzou, Turkmenistan.

Nina Radkevich delivered a talk on time concepts in language at the Far Eastern English Language Teacher's Association (FEELTA) 4th International Conference in Blagoveschensk, Russia, from June 24-26, 2002. This is the largest professional development event for English teachers in the region. Currently, Nina is a semifinalist in the Fulbright Program. Nina studied at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and is from Vladivostok, Russia.

Class of 1998-1999

Fariz Ismailzadeh works as a Program Officer for the International Republican Institute in Baku, Azerbaijan, and frequently writes for the *Baku Sun* and *Central Asia and Caucasus Analyst*. He serves as a senior associate for Cornell Caspian Consulting and recently completed a Master's Degree in Social and Economic Development in St. Louis, Missouri. Fariz studied at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, and is from Baku, Azerbaijan.

Class of 1999-2000

Tabib Huseynov has been awarded a scholarship to study in the Department of International Relations and European Studies at the Central European University in Hungary. Tabib studied at Utica College of Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York, and is from Baku, Azerbaijan.

Class of 2000-2001

Mariya Alexinskaya was awarded a grant from the Arthur Winterthur Fund to participate in the American Institute of Political and Economic Systems (AIPES) summer school in Prague, Czech Republic, during the summer of 2002. Mariya studied at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina, and is from Kyiv, Ukraine.

Aynura Huseynova has been sent to work as an Editorial Assistant at the magazine,

Azerbaijan International in their Los Angeles office. See www.azer.com. Aynura studied at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and is from Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

Sergi Kapanadze is the coordinator and a Secretary General for the Model United Nations in Georgia under the auspices of the United Nations Association. He was captain of the Philip C. Jessup International Law moot court team, which won in the national rounds and participated in the World Championship in Washington DC. Sergei was awarded a scholarship by the Open Society Institute to study at Central European University where he is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in International Relations. Sergi studied at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and is from Chiatura, Georgia.

Svitlana Pavlunik received a travel grant from the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine to participate in the "Youth Values" conference held on October 7-12, 2002, in Geneva, Switzerland. Svitlana studied at Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, and is from Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine.

Artem Shevchenko has been named Assistant to the General Secretary at the Ministry of Economics of Ukraine. Artem studied at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, and is from Ugledar, Ukraine.

Alexei Soldatov participated in the NATO Atlantic Student Summit in Prague, Czech Republic, on November 20-24, 2002. Alexei studied at the University of Wisconsin at Marinette, and is from Chisinau, Moldova.

Yulia Timoshkina was awarded a prestigious Ministry of Agriculture Scholarship to pursue a graduate degree at the Moscow State University of Environmental Engineering. She was one of 20 recipients from all of the Russian Federation. Her current project includes the creation of a landscape design for a new park in northern Moscow. Yulia studied at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and is from Moscow, Russia.

Aysenem Tuylieva has been hired as Country Coordinator for the Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) in Turkmenistan.

She studies economics at the Turkmen State Institute of National Economy. Aysenem studied at the Independence Community College in Independence, Kansas, and is from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Igor Voitsekhivskiy has been hired as an auditor at the major consulting firm Ernst and Young. Igor studied at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi, and is from Kyiv, Ukraine.

Kamran Aga-zadeh has been hired as a senior specialist at the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR). Kamran studied at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina, and is from Baku, Azerbaijan.

Kheyreddin Alekperov became a winner of the British Petroleum (BP) Summer Internship Program in the Government Public Relations sector. Kheyreddin studied at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, and is from Baku, Azerbaijan.

Dilshod Karimov has been hired by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS as a recruiting assistant for the FSA FLEX Program. Dilshod studied at the University of Iowa in Ames, Iowa, and is from Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan.

Elena Klintsova has been hired as an instructor in the Faculty of International Relations at Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, where she is currently studying herself. She teaches English to junior-level students, using vocabulary related to international economics and employment, and enjoys much popularity among the students. Elena studied at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, and is from Osh, Kyrgyzstan.

Vasily Lucashevich is the coordinator of international projects for the NGO "Project of Development." The NGO has received grant funds from the Open Society Institute to create debate clubs in the Altai Region of Russia, and additional funds through a Democracy Commission Small Grant from the U.S. Embassy to extend the network of clubs. Vasily has written two manuals on human rights education entitled "Children's Rights.

Tolerance. Manual for Teachers" and "Convention on Children's Rights. Declaration of Tolerance Principles. Comments for Students." Vasily studied at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia, and is from Barnaul, Russia.

Teymur Mamedov has been hired as a customer service representative at the Regus Company. Teymur studied at the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) in Indianapolis, Indiana, and is from Baku, Azerbaijan.

Dmitriy Naidin has been elected president of the English Club in Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine, upon return home from his year in the United States. Dmitriy studied at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and is from Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine.

Sarvarbek Nurmukhamedov is working as an interpreter at the Saipro Internet Portal, a government agency that develops official government websites. Sarvarbek studied at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, and is from Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Inoyat Sadikova is working for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in the Department of Micro Credits. She works in the Andijan Region of Uzbekistan. Inoyat studied at the University of Wisconsin at Richland and is from Asaka, Uzbekistan.

Nadira Turaeva is working in the Customer Service Department at ABN AMRO Bank in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Nadira studied at Pace University in Pleasantville, New York, and is from Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Dmitry Bukhtenkov, Aurica Balmus and Saiyora Ismailova have been selected to participate in ISFiT-the International Student Festival in Trondheim, Norway. This March 2003 event is the largest thematic student festival in the world and is held every two years. This year's theme is "Challenging Attitudes." Other FSAU alumni have also been selected to attend (but names are currently not available). See www.isfit.org for more information.



◀ Different generations of FSAU alumni joined to share experience and ideas at a Novosibirsk re-entry seminar. Pictured are Vasily Lukashevich ('02), Danil Odegov ('99), and Andrey Belokrylov ('01).

FSAU alumni meet to share their readjustment experiences after their year abroad at a Bishkek re-entry seminar for all Kyrgyzstani alumni.

▶ Kharkiv-area alumni from the FSA Undergraduate Program share photos and reminisce about their year abroad at a re-entry seminar held in their city.

▶ Current FSAU students on the yellow team pose for a photo during "field day" at the summer 2002 orientation in Washington, D.C.



▶ FSAU alumni take turns talking about their year in the United States and feelings about coming home in the Alumni Resource Center in St. Petersburg.

▶ The newly trained fellows take a break from their work to demonstrate some silliness to the camera.

◀ Bates Assilbekova, FSAU Alumni Fellow from Almaty, Kazakhstan, is pictured in the center of her alumni group at the re-entry seminar this fall.



Photo Gallery



Alumni Fellows work against the clock to save the world from nuclear devastation during a team building exercise in Moscow.



Rebecca Hakobyan, FSAU Alumni Fellow from Armenia, laughs during her presentation to the group during the Moscow training workshop.

Students take a short break on their tour of Washington.

Bottom row: (left to right) Anastasiya Sosevych (Ukraine), Nargis Mukimova (Tajikistan); Top row: Iryna Temchenko (Ukraine), Maksat Koroluev (Kyrgyzstan), Adil Nurgozhin (Kazakhstan), Aigul Amankulova (Kazakhstan), Olzhas Bilyalov (Kazakhstan), Dadodjan Azimov (Tajikistan)

Alumni in Action

Armenia

Armenian Alumni Travel to Tbilisi Fair

During September 5-7, 2002, two FSA Undergraduate alumni traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia, to take part in the First Annual Education and Career Forum held in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy and on behalf of alumni of U.S. government-sponsored programs. Rebecca Hakobyan, FSA Undergraduate Alumni Fellow, and Lilit Kocharyan, 2001-2002 FSA Undergraduate alumna, met with fellow FSAU alumni in Georgia and participated in the workshops and discussions at this two-day event.

Azerbaijan

Alumni from Azerbaijan Commemorate Anniversary of September 11

FSA Undergraduate alumni participated in a range of activities in Baku to demonstrate solidarity with the fight against terrorism and to analyze new Azerbaijani-American relations that have emerged over the past year. On September 10, Ugrad alumnus Kamran Aga-zade (2001-2002) spoke at a round-table discussion held at Public Affairs Officer Jim Seward's home, noting that "September 11 made us think we are part of the world," and that "terrorism has no nationality." On September 11, the U.S. Embassy held a gathering on the anniversary, where FSA Undergraduate alumni shared their condolences and experiences in the U.S. before and after the tragedy to the Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Ross Wilson. Also on that day, Kamil Veliyev (2001-2002) and Fariz Ismayilzade (1998-1999) appeared as guests on a television talk show for Space TV, providing their thoughts on the differences in American and Azerbaijani culture and education. Finally, a multimedia presentation depicting the images from New York and Washington, D.C. during the prior year was held on September 12, followed by a discussion of the effects of terrorism internationally and the relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan.

Belarus

FSAU Alumni in Belarus Gear up for IEW International Education Week (IEW) was much anticipated in Belarus this year, with alumni gathering at the American Center for Education and Research (ACER) to plan their outreach into high schools around Minsk. FSAU alumni even came up with a slogan for this year's IEW - *Try putting limits to education and we will break them* - that reflects their enthusiasm about sharing their U.S. experiences with young people in their country. Mini-debates and seminars on "Education and the Internet" are the activities planned for local high school students. Dur-

ing the meeting, alumni planners reminisced about their experiences and will encourage Belarussian young people to pursue international study. Pavel Zalutski (2001-2002) recalled that "it was an opportunity to set yourself free, to listen exclusively to your heart and intuition. A return to our professional inner selves, a removal of the heavy layer of professional fears and compromises." Gregory Zharov (1999-2000) wished that more people could have this great experience, that he describes as "unforgettable." Maria Kuzmina (2001-2002) summed up the feelings of what many alumni say they gained during their year abroad: "independence, self-confidence, professional growth and competence; another view of the educational process and philosophy."

Georgia

Ugrad Alumni Making Use of New Alumni Resource Center

The U.S. Embassy's Alumni Resource Center recently opened in Tbilisi, Georgia, and has already seen much action on the part of FSA Undergraduate alumni. In early September, Ugrad alumni met there with Chris Miner and Sam Eisen, representatives of the U.S. Department of State, who were visiting Georgia and interested in hearing alumni perspectives on their exchange experiences. On October 11, twelve FSA Undergraduate alumni took part in a discussion at the center about media communications led by Dmitri Shashkin, head of the International Republican Institute in Georgia. Alumni learned about managing an election campaign, the psychological aspects of using posters in a campaign and comparative electoral systems. A few days later, FSA Undergraduate Alumni Fellow Giorgi Meladze led a planning meeting at the center and then brought the group to Mtskheta Park, which some of the alumni helped clean last March in a community service event with the Urban Institute.

Kazakhstan

FSA Undergraduate Alumni Help Run International Conference

Five alumni of the FSA Undergraduate Program were awarded certificates and free admission to a major international conference in exchange for their help in organizing the logistics for the "Security and Quality of Life in the Big



FSAU volunteers working at the registration table at the Almaty international conference.

Cities" conference. Over 70 people attended this event in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on September 26-27, 2002, which was a program organized by the Fulbright Association of Kazakhstan (FASK), the Alumni Research Association (ARA), Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Embassy, American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS and the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). Representatives of the most prominent universities of Kazakhstan, U.S. Embassy officials and accomplished alumni of U.S. government-sponsored programs discussed questions of sustainable urban development, ecological issues for the 21st century, the safety of residents of Central Asian cities within the context of international terrorism and urban standards of living. The FSA Undergraduate Alumni who worked at the conference and received recognition for their efforts were Zhanar Altybayeva (2001-2002), Alibek Nurbekov (2000-2001), Tamara Stebunova (2001-2002), Aigerim Bizhanova (2000-2001) and Bates Assilbekova (2000-2001).

Kyrgyzstan

Alumni in Kyrgyzstan design Outreach Project

FSA Undergraduate alumni Anara Atabekova (2001-2002) and Ainura Djunushalieva (2001-2002) have designed a project to educate regional high schools students about higher education opportunities available to them. At a recent planning meeting held in Bishkek, these alumni then invited colleagues

Abdualil Abdurasulov (2000-2001) and Elena Klintsova (2001-2002) to join them in this community outreach initiative, which will be a starting point to a movement resulting in a Teen Summit next summer.

Moldova

Local School Children Learn about Volunteerism from Ugrad Alumni

Alexandra Leahu (2001-2002), Diana Acristinii (2001-2002), FSA Undergraduate Alumni Fellow Aurica Balmus (2000-2001) and guest trainer Liliana Veleshco conducted the first of six seminars on leadership and volunteerism in Cainari, Moldova, for middle and high school students. The students learned about the community service and volunteer activities these alumni carried out both in the United States as well as back home in Moldova, and their enthusiasm led them to propose a clean-up activity in their own school. The workshop included a discussion about the qualities of a leader, and each student was able to identify a certain leadership quality he possessed. The sessions were conducted in both Romanian and English, and English books were donated to the local English club.

Russia

FSA Undergraduate Alumni Programming: Kick-Off Event at Moscow Workshop

From August 5-9, fifteen FSA Undergraduate alumni began their yearlong "Alumni Fellowship" at the Posyolok Moskovskiy training center outside Moscow, Russia. These alumni were selected to represent the local FSA Undergraduate alumni populations in planning and carrying out a year's worth of alumni programming. The alumni spent a week learning project management skills, fundraising techniques, effective public speaking as well as taking part in leadership and teamwork activities. Four regional groups worked together to establish the framework for regional conferences to be held next spring, the first ever for FSA Undergraduate alumni. The conference topics proposed by the Alumni Fellows are: the Question of NATO Expansion (for West NIS, to be held in Kyiv), Volunteerism in Russia (for Russian alumni, to be held in St. Petersburg), Drug Addiction and Prevention (for Central Asia, to be held in Bishkek), and an Examination of the Inevitability of Corruption (for the Caucasus, to be held in Tbilisi). The Alumni Fellows left Moscow with a year's worth of activities to carry out, materials to guide them in this task and a strong network of colleagues with whom to consult over the next year.

Alumni Fellows practice teamwork skills by racing other groups in putting together children's constructor sets.



Tajikistan

FSA Undergraduate Alumna Reports at September 11 Video Conference with New York

One year from the day of the September 11th attacks, alumni in Tajikistan led a friendship-making videoconference with students in New York to memorialize the victims of terrorism around the world. Eleven alumni of U.S. government-funded education programs facilitated the videoconference and shared the experiences they had in the U.S. as exchange students. The videoconference linked more than 50 high school students from around Dushanbe with a class of Russian language students from Staten Island Technical High School. The focus of the videoconference was terrorism and its reduction



Ugrad alumna Rubshona Najmiddinova interviews alumni at the video conference.

through cultural exchanges and participation in extracurricular activities. The alumni were involved in every aspect of this event, from facilitating logistics to recruiting participants to making presentations to the American students. Rubshona Najmiddinova, FSA Undergraduate 2000-2001 alumna, covered the event for the local media.

Turkmenistan

Afghan Refugee Children Participate in Computer and Internet Training Seminar
In Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 14 Afghan refugee children were recently introduced to the world of the computer and the Internet. American Councils, in cooperation with the IATP Alumni Resource Center in Ashgabat, held a two-hour "Introduction to Computers and the Internet" workshop for Afghan children who have been driven out of their country. The trainers at the event were two alumni of the FSA Undergraduate Program, Aysenem Tuylieva and FSA Undergraduate Alumni Fellow Firuza Haitova, who, after taking the children through the basics of computing and the Internet, showed them how to open up their own e-mail accounts. This workshop, which may have been the first exposure to technology for these children, will hopefully spark their interest in computer technology and open them up to a lifetime of learning and discovery.

Ukraine

Alumni Gather in Odesa for Sexual Health Peer Education Seminar

A two-day seminar in Odesa in September sought to encourage alumni of U.S. government-sponsored programs to take leadership roles in educating their peers about sexual health. Twenty-eight alumni participated in the seminars, which were led by Kharkiv FSA Undergraduate Alumni Fellow Kateryna Nalyvayko and FSA FLEX Alumni Assistant Ludmyla Suprun.

The seminars covered topics such as HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and safe sex. In addition, alumni took part in workshops designed to facilitate their future roles as peer educators. Before departing the conference, alumni organized themselves into peer education groups that will continue to disseminate information on sexual health at universities throughout Ukraine. High school teachers of the U.S.-Eurasia Awards for Excellence in Teaching program (TEA) were also present at the training, and have new skills and materials for their classroom settings as well. The training has been shared with other FSA Undergraduate Alumni Fellows and will be replicated in other countries within the upcoming few months.

Uzbekistan

Ugrad Alumni Join with Muskie for Weekend Seminar at Chorvak Reservoir

From September 7-8, 2002, 17 alumni of the FSA Undergraduate Program and three Muskie Graduate alumni engaged in a weekend of professional development, job interview training and re-entry with a small group of experts and American Councils' staff. The alumni had much in common, including current job searches and mixed feelings about returning to Uzbekistan after a year or more in the United States. Nodira Turaeva, a recent returnee from a year at Pace University in New York, commented that "I found the training useful, the teacher is just great, and I also learned how to effectively present myself at an interview." These alumni have now formed a close group that will rely on each other for advice and company throughout the re-entry process.

FSA Undergraduate alumni and Muskie alumni at re-entry seminar at Chorvak Reservoir, Uzbekistan.



Point of View

continued from page 5

killing not only themselves but also many innocent people, and so on and so forth. It seems on the surface the biggest problem for the international community today is terrorism, but I assume there is more out there underlying these clashes. Poverty and deprivation are the most dangerous threats to any society and to the whole world as well. The international system should eliminate poverty, by giving access to education to the largest number of people possible. The less poor, the more educated we are—the stronger our security is.

Saiyora Ismailova (2001-2002) studied at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, and is from Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Lack of Respect

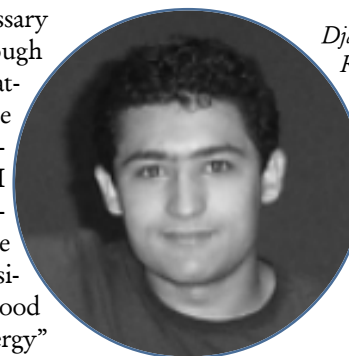
by JAMS RUSTAMBEKOV

One, two, three... thirteen—who's next? We all are probably aware of the disturbing events that happened in Northern Virginia, involving guys with a sniper rifle, who were on the loose and even sending messages to law enforcement officials. Is anyone safe in that area or any other part of the country or even in any part of the world? Probably not. Complete security is an illusion that people believe in. The 21st century presents people with super precise, super long-range, super everything weapons: no one is completely safe. Threat exists everywhere. The cause of the threat, I believe, is segregation and human neglect.

Before even going global, it's necessary to test things out on models or through simulations. Let's consider the sniper attacks as a little example and see where this came from. Judging by my experience communicating with people, I have learned that when a person is being segregated from society that same person starts to feel negative about positive things such as life, people, school, food and even a TV show. This negative "energy" builds up and leads to crazy ideas that harm

the same positive things such as life, people, school, food and even the TV show. Relying completely on my personal point of view, I can assume that the snipers were in a similar situation. One was probably a decent office clerk doing his job and enjoying life, but day-by-day his colleagues were making fun of him because of the music he listens to and because of the Looney Tunes tie he wears. So he quits his job and disappears for two years working on a mission to be "noticed" —to be "heard."

The threat right now to international security is people—people who don't care about other people and treat them the way they wouldn't want to be treated. We live in a world where anything is possible no matter how crazy the idea might sound. Therefore, each individual has to do his best to, at least, respect others just for being of the same species, if not more.



Djamshid Rustambekov studies at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and is from Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Open Forum

continued from page 3

I have to leave. My plane to the "normal life" leaves in a couple of hours. I go along the hall back to the iron door. The cafeteria smell does not bother me any more.

On my way back I was thinking neither about this particular shelter and the problem of street kids, nor about the joy of going home. I guess I was rather thinking about myself and the people I deal with in my regular life. Most of us, and I'm certainly including myself in this group, perceive ourselves as ambitious, mo-

tivated and highly educated people. We want and hopefully will achieve a lot because we work hard and this is absolutely right. I am certainly not calling anyone to give up their careers and work in shelters and hospices. I myself would never do that. But my question is: how can we manage with all our business and workload not to forget about problems other than an unsigned deal or delayed negotiations? And how do we manage not to become irritated any time we have to face problems that are not directly of interest to us?

Should we do anything? And if we should then what can that be? Or should we just

live in "our world" and try not to pay too much attention to the things "beyond our scope?"

Please, do not take everything written above as an attempt to preach. It is all just thoughts put on paper. And all the questions here probably cannot and should not be answered. But if any one of you has something to say (anything) in response it means it was not pure gibberish.

Tatyana Sivayeva (1998-1999) studied at the University of Wisconsin in Richland, Wisconsin, and is from Vladimir, Russia.

Congratulations to Four FSA Undergraduate Program Alumni recently awarded grants through the Local Initiative Grants Program (LIGP)

Anton Demydenko,* Kharkiv, Ukraine: "Effective Speaking Course: Creation and Development"

A four-month course on the topic of effective speaking will be created for 30 students and young professionals. The course manual and syllabus will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for consideration as part of secondary and higher education curriculum. The goal of the course is to promote democratic values in Ukraine by encouraging young people to use freedom of speech intelligently.

Anton Demydenko is a 1997-1998 FSA Undergraduate alumnus from Alamance Community College in Graham, North Carolina and a 2001 "Diplom" graduate of the Kharkiv State Academy of Municipal Economy. He currently serves as Deputy Director of the Community Partnerships Project at the Slobozhansky Regional Training Center.

* This project was created under the leadership of Kateryna Nalyvayko.

Shoira Sadykova, Khujand, Tajikistan: "Development through Education"

Shoira will organize five four-week intensive Small Business Management Workshops for 100 women entrepreneurs. Topics will include business plans, incorporation issues, accounting, credit, marketing, taxes and risk. The training workshops will take place in Khujand, Tajikistan.

Shoira Sadykova is a 1996-1997 FSA Undergraduate alumna of Rochester Community and Technical College

in Rochester, Minnesota and a 2000 graduate of the Khujand Branch of the Technological University of Tajikistan. She currently manages the accounts and functioning of email services for the Central Asian Development Agency in Khujand.

Sergey Davidyants, Khujand, Tajikistan: "To Educate Youth About their Rights"

Sergey will organize training sessions for 64 tenth and eleventh grade students in active citizenship education. Trainees will be encouraged to play a greater role in civil society development and will train their peers using workbooks developed by the project. Youth Leader Groups will continue the work of the project in the future, and project staff will work with the local Departments of Education to include civic education training in school.

Sergey Davidyants is a 1997-1998 FSA Undergraduate alumnus from Utica College of Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York and a 2000 graduate of the Tajik State University of Law. Sergey is an instructor in International Law and International Human Rights at the Modern University for the Humanities, Khujand.

Samir Hamidov, Azerbaijan: "Computer Courses for Orphans"

Samir will conduct six weeks of computer training for 60 orphans in Lenkara, Mingachevir and Ganja. Alumni trainers will receive instruction and materials from the local Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) and use regional IATP centers for training for the orphans.

Samir Hamidov is a 2000-2001 FSA Undergraduate alumnus from University of Missouri in St. Louis, Missouri and a 2002 graduate of the Azerbaijan University of Languages. Samir is a Program Officer at World Learning, Inc. implementing training programs for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) contracts.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Small Grants Program Created for FSA Undergraduate Alumni: "University Awards Program"

American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS under the auspices of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State have initiated a small grants program for alumni of the FREEDOM Support Act (FSA) Undergraduate Program. The University Awards Program is designed to support alumni leadership initiatives on their home university campuses that further the objectives of the FSA Undergraduate Program, such as community outreach, cultural exchange and other educational activities, and enrich campus life for all students.

WHO: FSA Undergraduate Alumni

WHAT: Grants up to \$500 each

WHEN: Open deadline while grant funds last

WHY: For enhanced cultural, academic or social atmosphere on your home university campus

HOW: Find an application form on www.americancouncils.org or visit your local American Councils office to pick up a form.

Local Initiative Grants Program (LIGP): Open Competition for 2003 Program

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce the Local Initiative Grants Program, which was established to assist former participants of the FREEDOM Support Act (FSA) Undergraduate Program, Edmund S. Muskie / FSA Graduate Fellowship Program, Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP), Partners in Education (PiE), and Regional Scholar Exchange Program (RSEP) to contribute to the social, economic and political development of their countries.

WHO: ECA alumni of the programs names above, including FSA Undergraduate Alumni

WHAT: Grants up to \$5000 each

WHEN: March 31, 2003

WHY: To support alumni to initiate social, economic, and political development projects of their own design in Eurasia and the Baltic Republics. Projects should build on the U.S. experience of alumni.

HOW: Find an application form on www.americancouncils.org or visit your local American Councils office to pick up a form.

Register today on Statexchange! Statexchange is a place to exchange information and news with fellow U.S. State Department exchange program alumni. To join Statexchange, please visit <https://statexchange.state.gov/join/join1.cfm> and fill in the required information in order to obtain a user name and password for the site.



Bulletin Board

The following is a list of upcoming events for FSAU alumni in their home countries. Please contact the local American Councils office and Alumni Fellow for more information.

December

01	Panel Discussion "Sexual Education for Youth"	Minsk, Belarus
01	World AIDS Day Event	Almaty, Kazakhstan
02	Sexual Health Awareness Seminar	Temopil, Kyiv, Ukraine
02	World AIDS Day: Public Awareness in Schools	Tbilisi, Georgia
02	World AIDS Day: Public Awareness in Schools	Kharkiv, Ukraine
2-14	Sexual Education Seminars in Schools	Minsk, Belarus
03	AIDS Awareness Seminar for Homeless Children	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
06	"Meet the Professionals"	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
07	Train the Trainer (ToT) for High School Activity	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
07	Kick-off to Internet Development Seminar Series	Novosibirsk, Russia
7-8	World Aids Day: Events in High Schools	Three Regions of Moldova
08	Intro to Journalism Club Seminar	Kharkiv, Ukraine
9,16,23	AIDS in the World and in Armenia: School Seminars	Yerevan, Armenia
12	Conflict Management and Negotiation Skills Seminar	St. Petersburg, Russia
13	Professional Field Trip	Novosibirsk, Russia
13	Debate on Russian Culture: Tolerance or Xenophobia?	Volgograd, Russia
14	"Cultural Bumps" Discussion	Vladivostok, Russia
18-21	AIDS Prevention Seminar for High Schools	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
20	Alumni Holiday Event	Vladivostok, Russia
20-29	Christmas Celebrations: Orphanages and Schools	Novosibirsk, Russia
21	Christmas Concert for Disabled Children	Minsk, Belarus
21	Training: How to Establish and NGO	Baku, Azerbaijan
22	Christmas Day Celebration	Almaty, Kazakhstan
22-28	"Adopt a Family": Holiday Visits to Orphans	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
24	"Pleasure of Doing Good" Play at Local Orphanage	Kyiv, Ukraine
24	Christmas and New Year Party	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
24	Puppet Show for Kindergartners	Volgograd, Russia
24	New Year's with Orphans	Baku, Azerbaijan
25	Christmas for Homeless Children	Chisinau, Moldova
25	U.S. Christmas Party	Kharkiv, Ukraine
26	New Year's Celebration	Almaty, Kazakhstan
27	Christmas Charity and Social Event	St. Petersburg, Russia
27	All Programs Alumni Reunion	Tbilisi, Georgia
28	Christmas Ball: FLEX, Ugrad and Muskie Alumni	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
TBD	Kick-off to "Democracy and English Teaching" Series	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
TBD	VIP Round-Table: EdNet Trainer to be Named	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

January

06	Discussion with U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
07	Christmas Carolling / Clothes Donation to Orphanage	Tbilisi, Georgia
11	Panel Discussion: Dual Role of PR in Society/Business	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
11	Panel Discussion: Successful Alumna Tuyuk Su	Almaty, Kazakhstan

13	Celebration on Skis - Christmas and Old New Year	Kyiv, Ukraine
14	Writing Grant Applications Training	St. Petersburg, Russia
15	Grant Writing Workshop	Tbilisi, Georgia
17	Leadership Training	Gandja, Azerbaijan
17	Model UN Simulation	Chisinau, Moldova
18	"Integration of U.S. Experience into Belarus" Discussion	Minsk, Belarus
18	Leadership Workshop	Kyiv, Ukraine
23	Seminar: Role of NGOs in Civil Society	Chisinau, Moldova
24-25	Educational Seminar for High Schools	Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan
24-26	Climate Change Seminar	Takob, Tajikistan
25	"Stability in Armenia" Seminar	Yerevan, Armenia
25	Defense of Human Rights in Siberia	Novosibirsk, Russia
26	Grant Writing Workshop	Almaty, Kazakhstan
26	Diversity Workshop	Kharkiv, Ukraine
26	Job Interview Workshop	Vladivostok, Russia
26-28	Conflict Resolution Training	Tbilisi, Georgia
27	Teaching English as a Foreign Language Program	Baku, Azerbaijan
31	"Personal Development" Seminar	Minsk, Belarus
All	Month-Long Clothes Drive	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

February

01	"Learning Diversity" Peer Education Seminar	Chemivtsi, Ukraine
03	Debate Tournament	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
03-06	Gender Issues Discussion	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
04	Debate: Legalization of Drugs	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
05	Model UN Basics	Tbilisi, Georgia
7-9	"Odyssey of the Mind" Tournament	Chisinau, Moldova
07	"University Crisis Management" Game	Minsk, Belarus
07	Leadership and Teambuilding Workshop	Novosibirsk, Russia
08	Excursion into the Mountains	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
08	Seminar: "City and Society: Politics, Science, Education"	Volgograd, Russia
08	"Learning Diversity" Seminar	Kyiv, Ukraine
09	Grant Writing Seminar	Volgograd, Russia
09	Essay Writing and Debate Tournament	Kharkiv, Ukraine
12	Conflict Management Seminar	Novosibirsk, Russia
14	Valentine's Day Celebration	Almaty, Kazakhstan
14	Valentine's Day Celebration	Volgograd, Russia
14	Valentine's Dance	Kyiv, Ukraine
14	Valentine's Day Party	Kharkiv, Ukraine
14	Valentine's Day Ball	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
14	Valentine's Celebration at Nursing Home	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
14	St. Valentine's Charity and Social Event	St. Petersburg, Russia
15	Valentine's Day Charity Dance for Women's Shelter	Chisinau, Moldova
15	Public Speaking and Journalism Skills Workshop	Novosibirsk, Russia
15-16	High School Outreach Program #3	Chisinau, Moldova
16	Grant Writing Workshop	Vladivostok, Russia
20-21	"Karl Popper's Debates" with Local NGO "ARCA"	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
21	Charity Ball	Kyiv, Ukraine
21-23	Model UN Activity with FLEX Alumni	Yerevan, Armenia

- 22 FSAU 10th Anniversary Event with the U.S. Embassy
- 22 Grant Writing Workshop
- 22 Public Speaking and Presentation Skills Training
- 25 How to Find a Job on the Internet
- 26-27 Model UN Activity

March

- 16 Language and Culture of the U.S.: School Seminars
- 07 Career Day for FLEX Alumni in High Schools
- 11 Clothing Drive for Homeless Children
- 14-15 Potential Employers Panel Presentation
- 15 Public Speaking Workshop
- 15 Leadership Skills Training
- 15 Conflict Resolution Seminar
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Presentation at English Club
- 22 Time Management Training
- 22 Nauryz Celebration at Orphanage #1
- 27-29 Regional Conference: Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova
NATO Expansion and Western NIS
- 27-29 Regional Conference: Turkmenistan, Tajikistan,
Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
- 29 Charity Ball & Auction
- 29-31 Regional Conference: Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan
Corruption in the Higher Education System

April

- 05 "New Methods of Education" Panel Discussion
- 08 Seminar for Homeless Children
- 11-13 Regional Conference: Russia *Our Turn to Take Care:
Enhancing Community Service in Russia*
- 12 Youth in Politics: Get out the Vote Campaign
- 12 "Successful Interview" Interactive Workshop
- 12 "Belarusian Business – A Road to Survival" Seminar
- 12 Career Panel: Alumni and Potential Employers
- 12 "Best Alumni" Awards and Celebration
- 15 Workshop on Improving Research Skills
- 19 "Spring Cleaning" at a St. Petersburg Suburban Park
- 19 Finals for Creativity Contest
- 19 Alumni Day: "Tolerance with Respect for Human Rights"
- 19 Job and Internship Fair
- 19 "Women's Leadership" Panel Discussion
- 22 Celebration of Earth Day Event
- 22 Earth Day: Tree Planting
- 25 Team Building Workshop
- 26 "Best Alumnus/a of the Year" Award
- 26 Debate Tournament and Movie Night
- 26 Clean-Up Day in Moldova: with FLEX alumni
- 27 Earth Day Clean-Up
- TBD Community Outreach with Astrakhan English Club

Baku, Azerbaijan
Astana, Kazakhstan
St. Petersburg, Russia
Chisinau, Moldova
Tbilisi, Georgia

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Almaty, Kazakhstan
Kyiv, Ukraine
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
St. Petersburg, Russia
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Tbilisi, Georgia
Almaty, Kazakhstan
Novosibirsk, Russia
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Chisinau, Moldova
Kharkiv, Ukraine
Astrakhan, Russia

May

- 01 "Multi-Ethnic Day"
- 03 "Ecology" – Such a Strange Word: Earth Day Celebration
- 34 High School Outreach Program #4
- 04 Earth Day Clean-Up and Picnic
- 05 Earth Day Project and Picnic
- 05 Earth Day Event
- 05 Easter Egg Hunt
- 09 Victory Day Visit to Veterans' Home
- 09 Veteran's Day Celebration
- 9-11 Excursion to Ecology Camp
- 11 Earth Day Activity
- 14 Easter Egg Hunt
- 15 Activity with Alpine Fund at Orphanage
- 18 Trip to Charyn
- 19 Career Day Event
- 21 "The Best Way to Spend Your Summer" Seminar
- 23 Job Fair
- 24 FSAU Alumni Paper Presentation
- 24 Resume Writing and Networking Skills Seminar
- 25 Internet and Microsoft Office Workshop with IATP
- TBD Athletic Competitions to Celebrate 300th Anniversary

Almaty, Kazakhstan
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Kyiv, Ukraine
Ganja, Azerbaijan
St. Petersburg, Russia
Yerevan, Armenia
St. Petersburg, Russia

June

- 01 Children's Day Celebration at Local Orphanage
- 01 Children's Day Celebration at Local Orphanage
- 02 Earth Day Event
- 12 Welcome Home Reception for new FSAU Alumni
- 14 Varzob Lake Clean-Up: Activity with FLEX Alumni
- TBD Welcome Home Reception for new FSAU Alumni
- TBD Welcome Home Reception for new FSAU Alumni
- 14 Welcome Home Reception for new FSAU Alumni
- 20-21 Conference: "The Future of Civil Society..."
- 21-29 FSAU Alumni as Counselors at Girls' Summer Camp
- 23 Welcome Home Celebration at Medeo
- 23 Welcome Home Reception for new FSAU Alumni
- 23 Welcome Home Reception for new FSAU Alumni
- 23 Welcome Home Reception for new FSAU Alumni
- 23 Welcome Home Reception for new FSAU Alumni
- 23 Welcome Home Reception for new FSAU Alumni
- 29 Welcome Home Reception for new FSAU Alumni

Chisinau, Moldova
Almaty, Kazakhstan
Almaty, Kazakhstan
Chisinau, Moldova
Varzob Lake, Tajikistan
St. Petersburg, Russia
Novosibirsk, Russia
Minsk, Belarus
Volgograd, Russia
Chisinau, Moldova
Almaty, Kazakhstan
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Kyiv, Ukraine
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Yerevan, Armenia
Baku, Azerbaijan
Kharkiv, Ukraine

July

- 4 Welcome Home Picnic and July 4th Celebration

Tbilisi, Georgia

American Councils Offices

ARMENIA

ACCELS
18/2 Marshall Baghramyan Ave.
Yerevan, Armenia 375019
tel: (374-1) 56-14-10
Ugrad Alumni Fellow: Rebecca Hakobyan, ugrad@accels.am

AZERBAIJAN

ACCELS
ul. Akmad Javad 5, kv 3
Baku, Azerbaijan 370001
tel/fax: (99412) 92-34-50
Alumni Fellow: Salima Jandarova, ugrad@americancouncils.az

BELARUS

Minsk
Alumni Fellow: Tatyana Kalita, tk@dolcevitaby

GEORGIA

American Councils
2, Arakishvili Street,
Tbilisi, Georgia 380079
tel/fax: (995-32) 29-21-06
Alumni Fellow: Giorgi Meladze, ugrad@amcouncils.ge

KAZAKHSTAN

ACCELS
Seifullin Ave. 531, office 604
Almaty, Kazakhstan 480091
tel: (73272) 63-30-06
Alumni Fellow: Bates Assilbekova, ugradalum_kz@yahoo.com

KYRGYZSTAN

ACCELS
Tynystanova 98, Flat 1
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 720000
tel/fax: (996-312) 22-18-82
Alumni Fellow: Larisa Kovtunova, larisa@accels.elcat.kg

MOLDOVA

ACCELS
37B Tricolorului St.
Chisinau, MD -2012
tel: (3732) 22-58-60
Alumni Fellow: Aurica Balmus, ugradalumni@accels.dnt.md

RUSSIA

Ekaterinburg
American Councils
620144 Ekaterinburg
ul. Khokhryakova 104, office 309
Tel/fax: (3432) 22-74-23
Elena Pokalova, highed@ural.actr.ru

Moscow

American Councils - NIS Regional Office
Leninskiy prospekt, 2, kom. 504
Moscow, Russia, 119049
Tel.: (095) 230-45-90
Alumni Coordinator: Maria Cherkashina, ugradalum@actr.ru

Nizhniy Novgorod

American Councils
6 Zelensky S'ezd
Nizhny Novgorod, 603600
Valeria Erofeeva, actr@kis.ru

Novosibirsk

American Councils
Prospekt Lavrenteva, 17, 1st floor,
4th entrance, rooms 1-3
Novosibirsk, Russia 630090
tel: (3832) 34-42-93
Alumni Fellow: Natalia Kocheturova, ugalum@ieie.nsc.ru

Samara

American Councils
ul. Tsiolkovskogo 1A, kom 5
Samara, Russia 443100
tel/fax: (8462) 42-45-76
Arkady Andreichuk, actr@samaramail.ru

St. Petersburg

American Councils
Nab.Fontanka 44
St. Petersburg, Russia 191025
tel. : (812) 311-76-55
Alumni Coordinator: Laysan Mirzagitova, alum@acie.spb.ru

Vladivostok

American Councils
Okeanskiy prospekt, d. 15a,
Vladivostok, Russia 690091
hedTel.: (4232) 40-69-69
Alumni Fellow: Nina Radkevich, hedalum@vlad.ru

Volgograd

American Councils
ul. Port Saida 18, kom 18
Volgograd, Russia 400066
tel/fax: (8442) 36-42-85
Alumni Fellow: Angela Vorobey, ugrad@interdacom.ru

TAJIKISTAN

ACCELS
105 Rudaki Ave., apt. 13 and 14
Dushanbe 734001
Tajikistan
Phone/Fax: (992-372) 21-1795
Alumni Fellow: Manuchehr Kholov, manuchehr1@yahoo.com

TURKMENISTAN

ACCELS
78 Maktymguly, 1st Floor
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan 744000
tel/fax: (993-12) 39-53-28
Alumni Fellow: Firuza Haitova, ugradfellow@online.tm

UKRAINE

Dnipropetrovsk
American Councils
pr. Karla Marksa 35, korp. 5, kim. 31
Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine 49044
tel: (0562) 45-23-40
Veronica Zhukov'ska, accels@email.dp.ua

Kharkiv

American Councils
Suite 278, kor. 1
Maidan Svobody 7
Kharkiv, Ukraine 61022
tel: (0572) 45-62-78
Alumni Fellow: Kateryna Nalivaiko, nalekaterina@yahoo.com

Kyiv

American Councils
vul. Melnykova 63
Kyiv, Ukraine 04050
Tel.: (38044)246-8221
Alumni Fellow: Maria Shcherbyna, ugradalumni@accels.kiev.ua

Lviv

American Councils
vul. Ferentsya Lista, bud. 4
Lviv, Ukraine 79000
tel/fax: (0322) 97-11-25
Iryna Chuyan: accels@accels.lviv.ua

Odesa

American Councils
vul. Staroportofrankivska 26, kim. 61
South Ukrainian Pedagogical University
Odesa, Ukraine 65020
tel/fax: (048) 732-15-16
Lyudmyla Stolyarova, fsa@accels.odessa.ua

UZBEKISTAN

ACCELS
68 ulitsa Konstitutsii
Tashkent 700031
Uzbekistan
tel: (998-71) 152-12-81/86
Alumni Fellow: Bekhzod Abdulkarimov, behzod@actr.bcc.com.uz

IREX Offices

ARMENIA

IREX/Yerevan
50 Khanjyan Street, Yerevan
375010
irex@irex.am
(374)(2)56-37-81

AZERBAIJAN

IREX/Baku
1 Sharifzade Street, "Zerkalo",
Baku, 370138
irex@iatp.baku.az
(994)(12) 97-75-02

BELARUS

IREX/Minsk
73 Varvasheni Street, 5th floor,
Minsk 220002
irex@irex.by
(375) 17-226-0687

GEORGIA

IREX/Tbilisi
62 Chavchavadze Avenue, Tbilisi
380062
irex@access.sanet.ge
(995-32) 25-06-78

KAZAKHSTAN

IREX/Almaty
ul. K. Karmysova, 76, Almaty
480100
irex@freenet.kz
(7) (3272)63-88-31

KYRGYZSTAN

IREX/Bishkek
National Acad. of Sciences, pr.
Chuy, 265, Room 106, Bishkek
720071
irex@freenet.kg
(996)(312)61-08-11

MOLDOVA

IREX/Chisinau
180 Stefan cel Mare Boulevard.,
Office 1219, Chisinau MD-2004
idatii@irex.md
(373-2) 24-65-24

RUSSIA

Moscow
IREX/Moscow
Gazetny pereulok, 5, Moscow
125993
irexmos@irex.ru
(095)956-0978

Vladivostok

IREX/Vladivostok
ul. Svetlanskaya, 150, 3rd floor,
Vladivostok 690005
irexvlad@irex.vl.ru
(4232) 22-22-37

TAJIKISTAN

IREX/Dushanbe
pr. Rudaki 103, apt. 10,
Dushanbe 734001
irex@ac.tajik.net
(3772) 27-55-46

TURKMENISTAN

IREX/Ashgabat
American Center, 78 Magtymkuly
Street, 2nd floor, Ashgabat
744000
irex@iatp.edu.tm
10-993-66-30-79-20

UKRAINE

IREX/Kyiv
vul. M. Hrushevskoho, 4, kim. 210,
Kyiv 252001
staff@kyiv.irex.org
(380) (44) 228-8637

UZBEKISTAN

IREX/Tashkent
4 Bobur Street, Tashkent 700003
irextash@irex.org.uz
(998-712) 55-83-58

PAS Alumni Staff

AZERBAIJAN

Afet Ibrahimova
Alumni Contact
aibrahimova@pd.state.gov

BELARUS

Irina Ivleva
Alumni Contact
iivleva@pd.state.gov

GEORGIA

Magda Magradze
Alumni Contact
magradzem@state.gov

KAZAKHSTAN

Gulnara Kenzhebulatova
Alumni Coordinator
kenzhebulatovag@state.gov

KYRGYZSTAN

Nazgul Toktosunova
Alumni Contact
toktosunovank@state.gov

MOLDOVA

Irina Colin
Alumni contact
icochisn@pd.state.gov

RUSSIA

Anna Poplavko
Alumni Coordinator
poplavkoav@state.gov

TURKMENISTAN

Aigul Kochamanova
Alumni Coordinator
kochamanovaaa@state.gov

UKRAINE

Vira Maxymova
Alumni Coordinator
vmaxymov@pd.state.gov

UZBEKISTAN

Sevara Melibaeva
Alumni Coordinator
sevara@pas.uz



**F R E E D O M
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Undergraduate
P r o g r a m